

creative, effective, and ultimately successful approaches to diverse challenges.

Through targeted lending to non-profit and for-profit community development organizations, CCLF works in low- and moderate-income Chicago neighborhoods to preserve and create affordable housing, develop social services infrastructure, and spur economic and commercial development. The Fund's presence is key for small and midsize real estate developers and non-profits in Chicago looking for low-cost, flexible financing. CCLF also offers technical assistance to its borrowers and works to promote sustainable building design.

CCLF and the other award-winning institutions are also notable for their ability to achieve substantial impact with limited resources. CCLF's borrowers have leveraged \$36 million in loans into \$808 million from public and private sources, resulting in the preservation or creation of over 1,000 jobs and 5,200 homes.

CCLF is also part of the Preservation Compact, an initiative supported by the MacArthur Foundation, which has the goal of preserving 75,000 affordable rental homes in Cook County by 2020. CCLF has created a revolving loan pool to help developers save up to 2,200 such units.

CCLF plans to use its \$500,000 award to enhance its lending activities and to promote sustainable building technologies in its community development initiatives.

I would like to offer my sincere congratulations to the Chicago Community Loan Fund for its exemplary and forward-looking strategies to preserve and build affordable housing, promote sustainable economic development in low- and moderate-income areas, and bring good jobs to Chicago.

#### ENDANGERED FISH RECOVERY PROGRAMS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2009

**HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 6, 2009*

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam Speaker, I'd like to share with you and my esteemed colleagues the importance of the Upper Colorado River and San Juan River Basin Endangered Fish Recovery Program.

This program is a premier example of how to recover endangered fish species while also providing more than 3 million acre-feet of water per year to Federal, tribal and non-Federal water projects.

It has been cited as the most successful fish recovery program in the United States and is used as a model for other recovery programs developed across the country.

Today I am introducing the "Endangered Fish Recovery Programs Improvement Act of 2009" to ensure this program can finish the restoration projects identified for complete success.

This bill extends the authorization of programs until 2023. At that time the fish species of concern will be fully recovered and the infrastructure in place to ensure continued success.

The projects completed to date on the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins are examples of outstanding cooperation

among a diverse group of local, state and federal governmental agencies, environmental groups, water users and utility consumers.

People ask why they've never heard of this recovery program and that's because it has been so successful. The fish identified as being under threat have been substantially maintained.

This bill is critical for the continued and final success of the projects necessary for recovery of the endangered fish.

#### RECOGNIZING POLICE UNITY TOUR

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 6, 2009*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Police Unity Tour," which on May 9th will kick-off its 13th Anniversary bicycle tour to our nation's capitol.

The Police Unity Tour honors the memory and courage of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty and raises money for the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C. Over one thousand police officers from around the country will complete the tour, hundreds of whom will leave from northern New Jersey municipalities that I am proud to represent.

In May 1997, the first Police Unity Tour was organized by Officer Patrick P. Montuore of the Florham Park Police Department, with the hope of raising public awareness about police officers who have died in the line of duty and to honor their sacrifices. The tour started with 18 riders on a four day fund-raising bicycle ride and has grown to over 1,100 riders nationwide.

The Police Unity Tour honors the heroes who have lost their lives and reminds us that everyday our police officers, firefighters, and emergency service personnel, all brave men and women, devote their lives to protecting and serving our communities. Too many of these officers make the ultimate sacrifice and to them we are eternally grateful. We must never take their actions for granted and always remember the families and friends they leave behind.

Madam Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Police Unity Tour on their 13th Anniversary of honoring fallen law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty.

#### SUPPORTING NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOLS WEEK

SPEECH OF

**HON. MICHELE BACHMANN**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 5, 2009*

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 382, which supports the goals and ideals of National Charter School Week.

I know very well the great importance of charter schools in public education today as I helped establish one of America's first charter schools, the New Heights Charter School in Stillwater, Minnesota in 1993. This school is

not only continuing its success today but has driven the establishment of other charter schools. And, today, children are educated at almost 3000 charter schools across the United States.

With so many new charter schools opening since these past two decades, it is clear that these schools fulfill a real need for parents, students, and teachers alike. These schools are held accountable for the progress of their students and they continue to thrive because their students perform so well.

Charter schools hold great importance in our educational system because they give parents options. They allow parents to choose from a variety of institutions to find the environment that will best help them succeed. The traditional public school is not always the right fit for every child. Because of charter schools, not only children from families with means have choices. Charter schools give underprivileged families choices that they might not otherwise have.

Madam Speaker, charter schools have set students and teachers on a path to achieve their goals and are an integral part in our constant efforts to improve education in the United States.

#### RESOLUTION HONORING FAMILY READINESS VOLUNTEERS

**HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 6, 2009*

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of military Family Readiness Volunteers and Ombudsmen.

This resolution honors the work of the Army's Family Readiness Volunteers, Air Force Key Spouse Volunteers, Navy Ombudsmen, Marine Corps Key Volunteers and Coast Guard Ombudsmen.

Each day, thousands of men and women volunteer their time and efforts to help improve the quality of life for military families by serving as a channel between deployed units and their loved ones at home. Frequently, these important volunteers are spouses themselves.

Family Readiness Volunteers and Ombudsmen help our families solve a variety of problems, and successfully meet the challenges service members and their families face before, during, and after deployments.

I firmly believe that the outstanding performance of our service members is a testament to their efforts, and with today's high operational tempo, their services are as important as ever. They could not do their jobs and execute the missions at hand if they were constantly worried about their loved ones back home.

As a proud San Diegan, I am fortunate enough to be able to meet with Navy Ombudsman several times a year to discuss these important issues.

These Ombudsmen provide invaluable insight into the struggles and challenges our military families face every day. They truly serve as the voice and as an advocate of those who serve our country and provide emotional support to spouses of deployed service members.

Specifically, the Navy Ombudsmen I have met with in San Diego have reiterated the importance of ensuring our military families have